

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A medical skin piercing device comprising a barrel, means for carrying a lancet in the forward part of the barrel to allow the tip of the lancet to advance from a retracted to a projecting position, a hammer arranged when released from a rearward position to act on the rear of the lancet to cause such advance, a barrier to the rear of the hammer and user-adjustable axially within the barrel by cam action as a result of rotation, a spring acting between the barrier and the hammer, and a trigger mechanism for holding the hammer in[[,]] and releasing [[it]] the hammer from[[,]] said rearward position with the spring compressed to a degree determined by the axial adjustment of the barrier, wherein the user-set degree of compression of the spring determines the force propelling the hammer after release of the hammer.

2. (original) A device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the barrel has slots skew to the axis of the barrel in which projections on the barrier engage.

3. (original) A device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the slots have short portions non-skew to said axis to locate the projections in set positions.

4. (previously presented) A device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the projections are on resilient formations integral with the barrier, allowing the projections to be moved radially inwards for insertion of the barrier into the barrel, the projections springing outwardly when they register with the slots.

5. (previously presented) A device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the rear portion of the barrel is encased by a captive sleeve spring urged forwardly, the sleeve having a lost motion connection through the rear end of the barrel and through the barrier to the hammer, whereby pulling back the sleeve retracts the hammer to said rearward position, and release of the sleeve allows the sleeve to revert to its forward position disconnected from the hammer.

6. (previously presented) A device as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the sleeve when pulled back reveals the slots for adjustment of the projections in the slots.

7. (previously presented) A device as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the sleeve when pulled back co-operates with at least one said projection and is rotatable to adjust the barrier.

8. (previously presented) A device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein a nose section of the barrel is removable to expose the lancet carrying means and allow lancets to be removed and replaced.

9. (original) A device as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the lancet carrying means is a generally tubular member with limited axial movement, into which a lancet fits from the forward end and spring urged rearwardly normally to maintain a lancet tip retracted.

10. (original) A device as claimed in Claim 9, wherein an ejector rod extends lengthwise of the barrel through the barrier and the hammer and is movable forwards to eject a lancet from the carrying means when the nose section is removed.

11. (previously presented) A device as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the projections are on resilient formations integral with the barrier, allowing the projections to be moved radially inwards for insertion of the barrier into the barrel, the projections springing outwardly when they register with the slots.

12. (previously presented) A device as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the rear portion of the barrel is encased by a captive sleeve spring urged forwardly, the sleeve having a lost motion connection through the rear end of the barrel and through the barrier to the hammer, whereby pulling back the sleeve retracts the hammer to said rearward position, and release of the sleeve allows the sleeve to revert to its forward position disconnected from the hammer.

13. (previously presented) A device as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the rear portion of the barrel is encased by a captive

sleeve spring urged forwardly, the sleeve having a lost motion connection through the rear end of the barrel and through the barrier to the hammer, whereby pulling back the sleeve retracts the hammer to said rearward position, and release of the sleeve allows the sleeve to revert to its forward position disconnected from the hammer.

14. (previously presented) A device as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the sleeve when pulled back reveals the slots for adjustment of the projections in the slots.

15. (previously presented) A device as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the sleeve when pulled back reveals the slots for adjustment of the projections in the slots.

16. (previously presented) A device as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the sleeve when pulled back co-operates with at least one said projection and is rotatable to adjust the barrier.

17. (previously presented) A device as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the sleeve when pulled back co-operates with at least one said projection and is rotatable to adjust the barrier.

18. (previously presented) A device as claimed in Claim 5, wherein a nose section of the barrel is removable to expose the lancet carrying means and allow lancets to be removed and replaced.

19. (previously presented) A device as claimed in Claim 6, wherein a nose section of the barrel is removable to expose

the lancet carrying means and allow lancets to be removed and replaced.

20. (canceled)

21. (new) A medical skin piercing device with a user-adjustable penetrating force, comprising:

a barrel with a slot;

a driving spring within the barrel;

a hammer movably plugging a forward end of the barrel and propelled forward by force from a first end of the spring acting against the hammer;

a trigger holding the hammer in a cocked position; and

a barrier adjacent a second end of the spring so that the spring is intermediate the barrier and the hammer,

the barrier being axially adjustable by a user to set a degree of compression of the spring to determine the force at which the spring propels the hammer,

the barrier comprising a cam projecting into the slot of the barrel, the cam being set by the user within the slot to adjust the compression on the spring.